Government. Accordingly about 3,97,000 employees belonging to Group B,C, and D gave their respective option, and their absorption process (Group B in MTNL and Group B, C and D in BSNL) was completed by 2003-2004. The process of absorption of Group A officers (numbering about 3000, including 2,2000 ITS) commenced in March 2005. In order to seek their option, letter dated 24.03.2005 was issued. On expiry of the sanctioned term of deemed deputation on 15.10.2005 another letter dated 18.10.2005 was issued by the Department of Telecommunications regarding repatriation of all such Group A officers [of Indian Telecom Service (ITS) and other services] who had either not exercised their option or had opted for Government service provided such officers were not covered by the interim stay orders granted by various courts.

This action has not affected the Telecom Services in the country. This is because alternative arrangements have been made by posting officers who have opted for BSNL/MTNL from Group A, B categories in Exchanges. These measures have been adequate for smooth functioning of telecom services.

2. A large number of cases filed by Group A officers of Indian Telecom Service (ITS) and other services individually and through their Associations challenging the letters dated 24.03.2005 and/or 18.10.2005 are pending adjudication by various Benches of Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) and High Courts. As on date, pending final disposal of cases, interim orders of various Benches of CAT and High Courts are in operation.

3. Thus, the subject matter of absorption of Group A officers in BSNL/ MTNL and of repatriation of Group A officers of Indian Telecom Service (ITS) and other services pursuant to the letters dated 24.03.2005 and/or 18.10.2005 being under adjudication by the courts of law, is at present *sub-judice*.

(d) No, Sir. There is no move to privatize either BSNL or MTNL.

Change of Faulty PCOs in Ajmer

†152. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the equipments installed at the PCOs in the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

rural areas surrounding Ajmer city are generally out of order and due to this the consumers are deprived of these facilities; and

(b) if so, what action is being taken by Government for changing the equipments and improving the lines as well?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, PCOs generally do not remain out of order for long duration. However, some Village Public Telephones (VPTs) working on Multi Access Radio Relay (MARR) system are out of order for longer duration than normal period for restoration due to obsolete technology and non availability of spare parts.

(b) Steps being taken for changing the equipments and improving the lines are as follows:-

(i) Replacement of VPTs working on MARR system; by Wireless on Local Loop (WLL) progressively in a phased manner.

(ii) Replacement of faulty Fixed Wireless Terminals (FWTs).

(iii) Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) with vendors who have supplied WLL equipment.

Profit of BSNL

153. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of revenue and profits of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) and dividend paid during the last three years;

(b) what has been the revenue generated by various divisions of BSNL viz. (i) Wireline Business, (ii) Mobile Business, (iii) National Long Distance (NLD) ;and International Long Distance business during the last three years; and

(c) whether BSNL prepares an Annual Report and Balance Sheet like in case of MTNL and if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) BSNL's